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REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY,

For 1865.

During the year ending November 30th, 1865, there have been elected twenty-five members and seven correspondents.

The deaths of the following members and correspondents have been announced.

Members.—Dr. Thos. B. Wilson, Major Chas. Izard Maceuen, Dr. Wm. Dar-rach, Fernando de la Cuesta, Wm. Parker Foulke, Jos. Hopkinson, Surgeon U. S. V., Jas. Dundas, J. Reese Fry, Richard Price, Jacob R. Smith, Joseph D. Brown, Dr. Francis M. Moore.

At the Annual Meeting, the following additional were announced: Dr. W. M. Ubler, Rev. Dr. Ducachet.

Correspondents: Dr. R. M. S. Jackson, Wm. Jackson Hooker, Chas. J. Wister, Wm. F. Lynch.

One member has resigned.

The number of papers contributed and ordered to be published, during the same time, has been fifty-one, as follows:

E. D. Cope, seven; Isaac Lea, LL. D., 3; John Cassin, 4; F. W. Lewis, M. D., 1; A. Günther, 1; Geo. W. Tryon, Jr., 1; Geo. N. Lawrence, 2; F. B. Meek and A. H. Worthen, 5; Philip P. Carpenter, 1; Theo. Gill, 7; Timothy A. Conrad, 3; Alex. Winchell, 1; C. A. Helmuth, M. D., 1; John L. Le Conte, M. D., 4; Horatio C. Wood, Jr., M. D., 1; Harrison Allen, M. D., 1.

The resignation of Prof. Rand, from the office of Recording Secretary, having been tendered, it was accepted at the October business meeting, and Dr. H. C. Wood, Jr., was elected in his stead.

Chap. III., Art. VII., of the By-Laws, has been amended, by striking out the second clause, viz.: "but correspondents residing in the United States shall be charged with a diploma fee of five dollars.

Chap. III., Art. IV., has been amended by striking out the word "all," and substituting therefor "three-fourths of," and adding at the end of the Article the words "not less than fifteen members being present.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HORATIO C. WOOD, Jr.,

Recording Secretary.

REPORT OF THE CURATORS,

For 1865.

The Curators respectfully present their usual Annual Report, for the year just about closing, on the condition of the Building and Museum of the Academy, committed to their supervision and care. They have to regret, in the commencement, to represent their charge, in some degree, in an unfavorable aspect. The collections in natural history, during a series of years, have increased with such rapidity, and have accumulated to such an extent, that they have outgrown the proper capacity of the building, and we find ourselves exceedingly cramped to accommodate the incessant additions. Further than this, three departments, which comprise the most destructible objects of natural history, have become so extensive, that we can no longer command the voluntary labor of members and committees sufficient and essential to keep them in proper order and preservation. The large and magnificent collection of birds is actually suffering from the want of attention, and must inevitably be destroyed if further neglected; and the same may be said of the entomological cabinet, the herbarium, and, indeed, of all the perishable collections.

To preserve the ornithological cabinet, it has become absolutely necessary that the Curators should be authorized to employ the services of a compe-

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tent person to attend to it at the earliest possible moment. This can be done at the rate of one hundred dollars monthly, and would, in the course of a year, ensure the temporary preservation of the collection. The matter is so important, that we hope the Academy may feel disposed to take some immediate action on it, even with the apprehension of future pecuniary embarrassment.

In relation to other perishable departments of our Museum, the Curators have recently taken steps by which they expect to be temporarily enabled to ensure their safety; but we feel it to be of the greatest necessity that, at an early period, the Academy should attempt to make permanent arrangements by which all departments of the Museum may be properly arranged and preserved.

We would further urge upon the Academy the importance of looking forward to procure more ample accommodation for its ever-growing Museum and Library; and, indeed, we now feel greatly the want of at least double our present space. A new building, two or three times the size of the one we now occupy, together with a lecture-room capable of seating about five hundred persons, and several minor conveniences, would greatly aid the views of the Academy, and render it far more useful to the interests of science, and of the community in which we live.

The accompanying list exhibits the contributions to the Museum of the Academy in its various departments during the year 1865.

Mammals and Birds.—Three species of the former and ten species of the latter, together with fifty species of birds' eggs, were presented by the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

Reptiles and Fishes.—Of the former, Prof. E. D. Cope presented 30 specimens of 7 species of batrachians, and of the latter, 319 specimens of 70 species. Three reptiles and ten fishes were presented by Messrs. C. Guillon, T. Norris, W. M. Cauley, and Dr. J. M. Corse.

Mollusks.—Four hundred species of shells of Mazatlan and Cape St. Lucas were purchased. Eight hundred species of shells, of which about 300 were new to the Cabinet of the Academy, chiefly from the collection of the Wilkes' Exploring Expedition, were presented by the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. G. W. Tryon, Jr., presented 164 species of shells, mostly new to our Cabinet; Dr. Isaac Lea, 24 species; and J. H. Thomson, 32 species. Six other species were presented by Messrs. H. F. Picking, B. Oman, and Dr. Semple.

Articulates.—Twenty-seven species of myriapods and spiders were presented by the Smithsonian Institution, H. C. Wood, E. D. Cope, and M. Miles.

Fossils.—A small collection of New Jersey Cretaceous Fossils, a collection of 93 species from the Upper Missouri, and a collection from the Wilkes' Exploring Expedition, were presented by the Smithsonian Institution. Col. H. Romanowsky presented 36 species from Russia, and small collections and specimens were presented by Dr. J. Letterman, U. S. A., W. S. Vaux, P. Tarbé, J. P. Lesley, F. Klett, Dr. J. L. Burtt, W. Anderson, J. G. Thayer, W. L. Mactier, R. Glover, J. H. Slack, A. Du Bois, G. J. Scattergood, and J. Da Costa.

Minerals.—Forty-two specimens were presented by Dr. I. Lea, W. S. Vaux, J. C. Trautwine, P. W. Sheaffer, A. Du Bois, B. A. Hoopes, E. A. Souder, F. Klett, W. J. Vinal, J. B. Ware, Dr. Semple, and H. S. Stellwagen.

Botany.—John Warner presented 200 species of Alpine plants, and several species were presented by Messrs. Garnett and T. E. Ridgway.

Comparative Anatomy.—Two mounted skeletons were presented by G. E. Manigault, of Charleston, and three by Dr. J. M. Corse. Miscellaneous specimens were presented by F. Klett and Dr. Leidy.

Respectfully submitted by

JOSEPH LEIDY,
Chairman of the Curators.